

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner indicates that claims 5 and 7-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format, including the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By the forgoing amendments, claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-12 currently are pending and are subject to examination in the above-captioned patent application.

In the Office Action mailed April 20, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Rogers (USP 6,081,071). To the extent that this rejection remains applicable in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as follows.

Applicants' independent claim 1 describes an organic EL panel in which at least one desiccating member is provided within the cover on **the central area thereof** and separated from the organic EL laminated body. Moreover, a concave portion is formed on one surface of the desiccating member, and the one surface is orientated to **directly and closely face the organic EL laminated body**. Applicants' independent claim 6 includes method limitations substantially corresponding to the above-described features of Applicants' independent claim 1. For example, Figure 2A depicts an embodiment of the present invention in which desiccating member 18 is provided in a center area of cover 16, and desiccating member 18 is spaced apart from organic EL laminated body 15. Moreover, desiccating member 18 includes a concave portion 18A that is formed on

a particular surface of desiccating member 18, and the particular surface of desiccating member 18 directly and closely faces organic EL laminated body 15.

In contrast to the present invention as set forth in Applicants' independent claims 1 and 6, Rogers merely describes desiccating members (desiccant and/or inert fluorocarbon 30,31) that are ring-shaped and are **arranged around** the organic EL laminated body (EL device 13) **along edge portions** of the cover (11). As such, the desiccating members (30,31) described in Rogers are **not** provided on the central area of the cover (11), and they do **not** have any concave portions directly and closely facing the EL device 13, as set forth in Applicants' independent claims 1 and 6. Therefore, Applicants' respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of claims 1 and 6 at least for this reason.

Claims 2-4 depend from allowable, independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of claims 2-4 at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below. Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this response to the outstanding Office Action in the above-captioned patent application. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.



Respectfully submitted,

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